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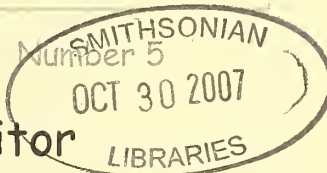
CBC Newsletter

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for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

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Carolina Birders Enjoy Rare Tropical Visitor

Steve Shultz

One day last May, Lloyd Moon of Sumter, South Carolina set out for a bit of recreational birding, hoping to spot a few northbound migrants and enjoy whatever else might be out and about on a fine spring morning. Little did he know as he left for the day that his trip would produce one of the more exciting avian finds in recent memory. While birding at a crayfish farm near Rimini, a location Lloyd visited on and off for several years after befriending the owners, he spotted a raptor that, while confident of the identification, he knew should not be here.

Lloyd recognized the field marks of an adult male Snail Kite, a tropical raptor that United States birders are accustomed to searching for only in the extensive wetlands of the Everglades region of South Florida.

The Snail Kite (at least in the United States) normally enjoys a fairly limited diet of Apple Snails, which thrive in the Everglades region. The Florida birds are generally non-migratory, and not expected to be found north of central Florida. But here it was, a Snail Kite apparently preying on crayfish. Not only would this be a first record for the state of South Carolina if accepted by the bird records committee, it would be one of an extremely limited number of sightings outside the south and central Florida region. This was a rare bird in every sense of the word.

Knowing the significance of what he found, Lloyd met

with the landowner, Mr. L. T. Elliott, and discussed the potential impact of dozens of birders arriving to hopefully catch a glimpse of the rare visitor.

Mr. Elliott graciously allowed birders access to the crayfish ponds around which the bird had been seen, and almost daily from mid-May to mid-June visitors traveled from far and wide to see the rare hawk.



*Rimini, SC Snail Kite
David Weathers*

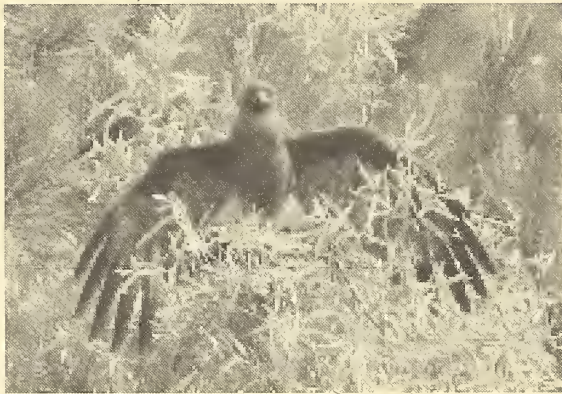
Mary Capers Bledsoe of Gray Court, SC writes: My mother, sister and I each had successful trips to see the Snail Kite. For me, he was a bit more elusive, meaning I walked the entire length of the crawfish ponds, turned around, and walked all the way back thinking I was going to strike out. But as I searched the first pond on the way back to my car, there he was. I wound up with the best viewing of the three of us: he posed, flew, posed, vocalized, flew, posed. My 93 year old great aunt is simply amazed that we were all able to just follow directions to Rimini and see a single rare bird.

(continued)

South Carolina Snail Kite (continued)

When I think about her life - she remembers chasing the "Ice Wagon" through the streets of Columbia to catch the shavings that fell off the truck - the fact that she's watching and enjoying this benefit of the on-line birding community really is remarkable.

Tom McNeil writes: Rack Cross and I drove down to Rimini, SC on May 23rd from Blountville, TN. We left about 4:30 a.m. Upon arrival, the Snail Kite was the first bird we saw. We watched for about 10 minutes. The bird left. We left, driving to Charleston and birding a while at Folly Beach. Afterwards we celebrated at the Charleston Crab House and then got back in the car and drove home. Little better that 700 miles round trip in a day. But, oh so worth it!



Michael McCloy

Mary Ann Kolb of Barnwell, SC writes: I was disappointed that I didn't get to go to Florida to see the Masked Duck so I was determined to see the Snail Kite! When I got to Rimini I was glad to see several birders already there. I asked the first one I got to "Is it here?" He pointed to a tree right across the road from me and there it was--sitting with its back to me. In just a few minutes it flew to the second pond and put on a wonderful show hunting and catching crawfish. As someone said "the easiest rare bird I had ever seen." When I left, I missed my turn and had gone a few miles when I realized that I needed to turn around and go back. I found a wide place in the road and as I turned around I realized I was right beside a field in which 15 or so Mississippi Kites were hunting! They were right beside the road and swooping with a few feet of where I sat. All around wonderful day!

Paul Serridge writes: My wife, Barbara, and I may have had the most painless sighting of the Snail Kite. On Sunday, May 20th we left Greenville, SC to drive to Litchfield Beach for our summer vacation. Our route took us through Pinewood, only 6 miles from the crawfish farm, so only a very short detour was necessary. On arriving at the farm we saw 3 birders by the side of the first pond peering through binoculars and a scope. One of them called out to us and within less than 2 minutes of arriving we were looking through the scope at the Snail Kite perched in a pine tree. Whoever said "No pain, no gain" was wrong in this case! It was not a life bird for us as we had seen Snail Kites in Florida in March and in impressive numbers at Iguacu in Brazil in September, 2006. Despite that we were really pleased to have been among the birders who saw the first "South Carolina" Snail Kite. As a bonus, on the drive from Elliotts Farm to Litchfield we spotted a flock of about 20 Mississippi Kites over a large field and in amongst them were 2 Swallow-tailed Kites. As another birder remarked, we hit the SC Kite trifecta that day!



Jeff Lemons

Keith Luckie took home more than he bargained for when he reports: I was lucky enough to get a chance to visit the Snail Kite that graced our presence here in SC and I have to say it was very exciting! Not only did I get to see a bird that I have never seen before, I also was gifted with chiggers! The Snail Kite was thrilling to watch dive and come up with crawfish effortlessly. I stayed a good part of 2 hours and enjoyed him eating 4 or 5 crawfish amongst all the Yellow-crowned Night Herons that seemed a bit perturbed about his presence. Although the experience of seeing a Snail Kite was exciting, the aftermath of the chiggers was very painful!

(Continued on page 9)

Carolina Bird Club Co-Sponsors the 11th Annual Wings Over Water Birding and Nature Festival—November 6-11, 2007

Steve Shultz

What do you think of when someone mentions the Outer Banks of North Carolina in late fall? Superb in-shore and surf fishing? Enjoying beautiful sunsets over the sounds and majestic sunrises bursting from the blue waters of the Atlantic? Exploring historic lighthouses and lifesaving stations along the thread of sandy islands?

For many in the birding community these are happy distractions during days of exciting birding opportunities. Waterfowl are beginning to arrive from northern breeding areas, resident birds enjoy a brief respite between breeding season and the upcoming winter, and the bird population in the marshes swells with wintering rails, waders and sparrows. Lingering passerine migrants flit like jewels among the bayberry and live oaks, while the wintering landbirds arrive in full force. If all of this were not enough, this time of year can be one of the best opportunities to find rare western species along the Carolina coast, and the frequently excellent weather makes spending time outside searching for these visitors a pleasant proposition.

If I have not already convinced you that a visit to the Outer Banks and Eastern Shore of North Carolina during fall is wonderful opportunity, the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, along with a number of sponsors including the Carolina Bird Club, invite you to enjoy the coast's offerings during the 11th annual Wings Over Water Festival. Billed as "A Celebration of Wildlife and Wetlands in Eastern North Carolina", the six-day festival offers a variety of experiences from Red Wolf howls to owl prowls, from nature photography exhibits to four wheel drive birding tours of the Cape Hatteras Point area.

An especially exciting offering at this year's event is the presentation of Friday evening's keynote address by Scott Weidensaul, Pulitzer Prize nominated author of "Living on the Wind" and writer of "Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul". The latter work is an enchanting chronicle of Scott's journey retracing Roger Tory Peterson and James Fishers' epic natural history tour of North Amer-

ica as described in the classic work "Wild America". Weidensaul comments in this year's Wings Over Water registration booklet: "I realized that with the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the original book coming up in 2005, there was a marvelous opportunity to go back and retrace the original trip, and use it as a framework to look at what we'd gained and what we'd lost for conservation in the past half-century." Scott has authored more than two dozen books on aspects of nature, and contributes to *Smithsonian*, *Audubon*, *Nature Conservancy*, and *National Wildlife* magazines. His most recent book is "Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding". Advanced registration is required to attend the keynote speech, which will be held at the Roanoke Island Festival Park on Friday evening, November 9.

In addition to birding trips to Pea Island, Cape Hatteras, Alligator River NWR, the Palmetto Peartree Preserve and other areas, festival offerings span a wide range of interests and include: kayak and canoe trips, candlelight tours in historic Manteo, photography exhibits and outings, a duck decoy carving experience, a chance to see the NC Aquarium after hours, and a special opportunity to travel far offshore to search for pelagic birds and wildlife on Capt. Brian Patteson's Stormy Petrel II.

In addition to human visitors, the festival may feature a variety of uncommon to rare animals. During last year's festival participants on a Bodie Island field trip enjoyed seeing a Humpback Whale feeding just beyond the breakers at Coquina Beach. Over the past several years rare birds such as Sprague's Pipit and White-winged Crossbill thrilled visitors. Who knows what will appear at this year's event!

Advance registration is required for most activities. Some events are free; many charge a nominal participant fee. To discover all that Wings Over Water 2007 has to offer, visit the festival's website at www.wingsoverwater.org or contact the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce at (252) 441-8144.

CBC Grants Available for Bird Related Research

Do you know a student with an interest in birds? Did you know that the CBC supports student research related to birds and bird life in the Carolinas?

The Carolina Bird Club makes funds available to support student research concerning North and/or South Carolina birds, or secondary school programming designed to promote an interest by students in birds.

Awards are generally in the amount of \$500, but application may be made for other amounts.

Applications should be made through an educational or non-profit institution. For student research projects, applications require the sponsorship of a faculty member and approval of the institution's authorized signatory. For secondary school programming, applications require a letter of support from the school principal and approval of the institution's authorized signatory.

Applications should be prepared directly by the applicant and should include a scope of work (limited to two single-spaced pages), a budget with a budget justification, biographical sketch of the applicant indicating course work and other activities that would indi-

cate that the applicant is capable of performing the described project, and a letter from the faculty sponsor or school principal. Allowable costs include, but are not necessarily limited to, laboratory supplies and limited travel to research sites. The Carolina Bird Club does not support institutional indirect costs.

Awardees must file a final report, including an accounting of expenditures and a summary of research or programming, no later than 45 days following the close of the grant period, and any unused funds must be returned to the Club no later than 45 days following the close of the grant period. Significant research findings will be reviewed for possible publication in *The Chat*, and the Club is always interested in grantees presenting at one of the three annual meetings (winter, spring, fall).

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis for review by the Executive Committee. To find out more, or to submit an application, contact the Headquarters Secretary, Dana Harris, at hq@carolinabirdclub.org or 630-453-8270.

NCBT Challenge Grant Opportunity Continues

The NC Birding Trail – Coastal Plain Guide is being received with many positive comments from birders around the region. With 104 sites approved for the piedmont region trail guide - due for release in spring 2008 - and the mountain site selection process opening in October, the NC Birding Trail is rapidly moving across the state. However, getting from the site selection process to the printed guide requires significant funds and the NCBT needs your help!

As explained in the last CBC Newsletter, Golden LEAF has awarded the NCBT a 1:1 matching grant of \$74,000 for development and printing of the Piedmont Trail Guide if the NCBT raises additional funds to meet this match. CBC has generously agreed to assist by offering a \$5,000 challenge grant that will end December 31, 2007.

The CBC challenge offers donors a rare opportunity to

turn \$1.00 into \$4.00 of cash for the NCBT. For each dollar donated, CBC will match it dollar for dollar up to \$5,000. This potentially will result in \$10,000 that will be matched with another \$10,000 from Golden LEAF for a total of \$20,000 for the NCBT – a great start on the design and publication of the Piedmont Trail Guide.

With a small donation from each member, we can easily raise the funds to meet this challenge. We hope CBC can count on you for a donation! Mail your donation to the address below and note "NCBT Challenge Grant" on your check:

Carolina Bird Club
Dana Harris, Headquarters Secretary
353 Montabello
Bloomington, Illinois 60108

Chasing Mr. Kirtland's Warbler

Steve Shultz

Does the thought of traveling out of state simply to see a single bird sound strange to you? When I first started birding it definitely had the ring of something just a bit too obsessive. I mean really, the cost and logistics of flying to some far away state, renting a car, paying for a hotel, food and all the other accoutrements of travel, just to see a single bird that might or might not be there? After all, someone traveling to South Dakota to see Mt. Rushmore can at least be reasonably assured that the famous mountain sculpture will be there when they arrive. With a bird? Not so certain...

Several years later in my birding career and my outlook has, shall we say – adjusted. It is no longer the slightest bit unusual to contemplate a trip for one bird. Go this weekend to see a Whooping Crane in Texas? Sure! Want to head up to Rhode Island and see that rare goose from Europe? OK! After all, folks with other hobbies perform similar feats. What biker has not thought of making the journey to Sturgis or Daytona to fraternize with thousands (hundreds of thousands?) of like minded enthusiasts? How many stamp collectors would travel to see an exhibit featuring an ultra-rare Inverted Jenny? How many football fans would travel out of state to see a game? (I learned the answer to this one on a flight from Atlanta to Miami where seemingly half of the plane was filled with rabid Dolphins fans on a day trip to sunny south Florida to see their team play.) So when a couple of friends mention they are thinking about flying up to Michigan to try and see a Kirtland's Warbler, I think it perfectly rational to join up.

Granted, little on this excursion is being left to chance. The timing of the trip (2nd week of June) ensures that the world's population of Kirtland's Warblers has plenty of time to arrive on their Jack Pine breeding grounds in north-central Michigan, the days of the week are chosen to lessen the number of other people on the Forest Service tour through the breeding habitat, and the number of days the trip spans ensures that if multiple attempts to find the bird are required, we can change our plans to accommodate.

When the day of departure arrives, our intrepid group

of three catches the morning non-stop to Detroit, picks up a waiting rental car, and aims north for the three hour drive to the scrubby sand ridges south of Mio, Michigan. The bulk of the world's Kirtland's Warbler population nests within 60 miles of Mio, traveling from wintering grounds in the Bahamas to this world of low Jack Pines to build nests, mate, and raise this year's crop of young. Within a matter of months the entire populations retreats to the temperate climes of the Bahamian Archipelago for a winter in the sun before returning to Michigan the next spring.

Most sources of birding information for central Michigan indicate there is little chance of finding a Kirtland's on ones own. The majority of the nesting habitat is protected by various governmental authorities, and access during the breeding season is severely curtailed. The general public is invited to join sanctioned tours originating daily during the breeding season from the towns of Grayling and Mio. The tours travel into breeding colonies, and the chances of seeing a singing male are said to be good. Not wishing to leave anything to chance, my group heads to the first of three areas not closed to the public that our Birder's Guide to Michigan indicates might hold a stray bird or two, though we are warned not to hope too much. We arrive to find a broad, sandy plain covered in 6-8 foot high Jack Pine trees. The habitat looks very similar to Carolina coastal plain scrub where Prairie Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats can be expected. Due to the sensitive state of the species, no intrusion into the pine plantation is allowed. Our observation must be from the sandy forest roads running along the edge of the plantation. Similarly, we cannot "pish", whistle like a screech owl, or play a tape in hopes of seeing a bird, as would be expected with such a sensitive species. We must remain as quiet as possible and hope that a singing bird pops up onto a high-reaching branch in order to obtain a sighting. The fact that it is now about 3:30 in the afternoon does not provide much hope, but we gamely start walking the roads listening. Within a few minutes the sweet, carrying call of a male Kirtland's echoes from the pines. There is a bird here! And it's singing! Our excitement soon turns to frustration as it appears the bird is singing from a low branch, a technique not uncommonly used

(Continued)

Kirtland's Warbler

(continued)

by the grey and yellow warbler.

After a half hour of sporadic singing we have yet to see the bird. Deciding to try another sandy road through the trees, we strike off, with Nashville Warblers and Field Sparrows keeping us company as we walk and listen. Before long we come across a second singing male, this one closer to the road. We bring the car up and attempt to use the roof as a raised viewing platform. This is probably prohibited somewhere in the rental contract, but certainly an exception would be made for a Kirtland's, right? Even with the raised vantage point, we cannot see the bird. Frustrated, but excited that we have at least found birds on our own, we decide to make one more foray down a dirt path and then head to Grayling for dinner. This time we split up with two going one way and the third in the opposite direction. The division of the group must have been the catalyst, for as we round a corner we once again hear the loud song of a male Kirtland's. This time we are in luck. The bird is perched on an old post not twenty-five yards away. We eagerly peer through binoculars and watch as the small yellow and grey bird shakes and quivers as he delivers his song across the pine barren. Brightly colored bands, three on each leg, indicate this bird was banded during a recent winter in the Bahamas. The warbler repeats his song several times a minutes, allowing us to savor the moment when we found a Kirtland's on our own.

What about the other guy, you ask, the one who went the other way? Fear not constant reader, for after briefly peering in awe at the rare bird, I run up the path calling for our sacrificial offering. Soon enough our third, we'll call him "Dan", comes running toward us, moving rather quickly for a retiree in my opinion, and gets to gaze upon the feathered jewel as well. We figure the exercise is good for him, especially since he'll soon be pushing an out-of-gas rental car down a dark suburban Michigan street, but that's a story for another time.

Would you like to see your local bird club featured in a future edition of the Newsletter?

Contact the Editor at newsleter@carolinabirdclub.org for more info.

Meet the Greenville County Bird Club!

J.B. Hines

The Greenville County (SC) Bird Club was founded in February 2000 by a small group of dedicated birders. The founding members shared another interest, they all visited the Greenville Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU) store, owned by Abbie Pressley, and had inquired about local bird clubs. Abbie invited Barbara Neal and Simon Thompson from the Henderson County (NC) Bird Club to meet at the WBU store to talk about forming a local club in Greenville. From that original group of approximately 12 the GCBC now has about 100 members.

The club sponsors regular field trips both locally and further afield in SC and NC. Information about field trips, membership and projects can be found on our website (gcbirdclub.org). Many thanks to our webmaster and past president, Harry Davis, who also maintains our e-mail list serve.

Some of our club projects include: conducting bird surveys in the Reedy River Corridor and Isaqueena Falls/Stumphouse Mountain Park, a Christmas Bird Count (North Greenville CBC), and spring and fall migration counts. On the third Saturday of every month we sponsor a bird walk in the recently opened Lake Conestee Nature Park (www.conestee.org). The park offers a good mix of habitat types including open fields, woodlots, swamp, marsh and a lake. The park bird list currently stands at 133 species after only eight months of counting!

Beginning in September, members of our club known as "Wing Nuts" gather at the Caesars Head Hawkwatch to count passing raptors. Jeff Catlin compiles the data for this count and posts daily results to the Carolinabirds e-mail group.

It has been my pleasure to have served as the field trip coordinator for the past four and a half years. I have made many good friends and encourage you to join this group of friendly birders. Visitors are welcome on field trips, but please contact our field trip coordinator, Paul Serridge (paulserridge@gcbirdclub.org) to see if meeting time/place has changed.

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker: Fact or Fiction?

Is the Ivory-billed Woodpecker a recently rediscovered part of North American avifauna, or are recent sightings of this majestic forest bird more comparable to sightings of Bigfoot or the Loch Ness Monster?

You will not find the answer here, and the debate continues to rage, but recently birders in the Carolinas provided their thoughts on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker question by completing an on-line survey. The results of the survey indicate the following beliefs:

Do you believe that individual Ivory-billed Woodpeckers currently live in the United States?

Yes 60.9%
No 39.1%

Do you feel that evidence recently made public regarding Ivory-billed Woodpecker sightings is sufficient proof to show that this species is NOT extinct in the United States?

Yes 27.3%
No 72.7%

Based on the information circulated to date, do you feel that additional searches for Ivory-billed Woodpeckers should be undertaken?

Yes 76.1%
No 8.0%
Only if no public money is spent in the effort 15.9%

If Ivory-billed Woodpeckers were proven to exist in the United States, would you travel to see one?

Yes 36.4%
No 9.1%

No. I would like to, but would avoid travel in hopes that the birds' habitat would not be degraded by excessive visitors. 54.6%

Do you believe that the evidence presented from Arkansas is compelling enough that you feel Ivory-billed Woodpeckers are present in that state?

Yes 36.4%
No 48.9%
I don't know enough about this evidence to comment 14.8%

Do you believe that the evidence presented from Florida is compelling enough that you feel Ivory-billed Woodpeckers are present in that state?

Yes 22.7%
No 42.1%

I don't know enough about this evidence to comment 35.2%

Do you believe that the evidence presented from Mississippi is compelling enough that you feel Ivory-billed Woodpeckers are present in that state?

Yes 3.4%
No 37.5%

I don't know enough about this evidence to comment 59.1%

How confident are you that Ivory-billed Woodpeckers exist in the Carolinas?

Very Confident 1.1%
Confident 6.8%
Unsure 21.6%
Not Confident 37.5%

Confident the woodpecker is NOT present in the Carolinas 33.0%

Have you ever seen an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the United States?

Yes 1.1%
No 98.9%

In summary, the majority of respondents (60.9%) feel the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is not extinct in the United States, but do not (72.7%) feel that the evidence provided to date is compelling. The evidence provided from Arkansas struck a chord with respondents as 36.4% feel that information is sufficient to prove the species exists in that state, compared with only 22.7% for the data from Florida, and 3.4% for the data from Mississippi. Most feel that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is not currently living in the Carolinas (70.5% are not confident or feel certain the bird is not present). As one might expect, all the respondents with the exception of one indicate they have not had the pleasure of seeing Ivory-bill in the wild.



Carolina Christmas Bird Count Information



It's not too early to begin making plans to participate in one or more Christmas Bird Counts in the Carolinas. To help you get started, the dates and contact persons for some of the many opportunities in North and South Carolina are listed. Christmas Bird Counts are an excellent chance to join fellow birders of all experience levels, and allows you to participate in a tradition that dates back to 1900! Note that most counts require participants to pay a nominal fee charged by the National Audubon Society for record keeping and administrative tasks related to the counts.

Winyah Bay	SC	12/13/2007	Lex Glover	803-419-7747	gloverl@dnr.sc.gov
Greensboro	NC	12/15/2007	Elizabeth Link	336-273-4672	baddogi@yahoo.com
Raleigh	NC	12/15/2007	John Connors	919-755-0253	john.connors@ncmail.net
Raven Rock	NC	12/15/2007	Paul Hart	910-893-4888	paul.hart@ncmail.net
Wayne Cty.	NC	12/15/2007	Eric Dean	919-736-7264	wolfpackdeans@earthlink.net
Tryon	NC	12/15/2007	Simon Thompson	828-253-4247	simont@charter.net
Kitty Hawk	NC	12/15/2007	Jeff Lewis	N/A	jlewis_obx@yahoo.com
Lower Saluda	SC	12/15/2007	Jason Giovannone	N/A	buteo2808@hotmail.com
Gastonia	NC	12/15/2007	Steve Tracy	N/A	stevepath1@aol.com
Rocky Mount	NC	12/15/2007	Marshall Brooks	252-966-4967	mab28@suddenlink.net
Congaree Swamp	SC	12/16/2007	John Grego	803-777-5110	jrgrego@mindspring.com
Lake Norman (South)	NC	12/16/2007	Taylor Piephoff	704-545-2314	piephofft@aol.com
Pee Dee	SC	12/16/2007	David C. McLean, Jr.	843-853-7084	dcmclean@gmail.com
Southern Pines	NC	12/16/2007	Susan Campbell	910-949-3207	susan@ncaves.com
Durham	NC	12/16/2007	Mike Schultz	919-490-6761	ross.gull@verizon.net
McClellanville	SC	12/16/2007	Nathan Dias	N/A	offshorebirder@yahoo.com
Morehead City	NC	12/16/2007	John Fussell	N/A	jfuss@clis.com
Litchfield/Pawleys Is.	SC	12/19/2007	Jack Peachy	N/A	jp5810@sccoast.net
York/Rock Hill	SC	12/22/2007	Bill Hilton Jr.	803-684-5852	research@hiltonpond.org
Charlotte	NC	12/22/2007	Dave Lovett	N/A	birdsallot@webtv.net
Chapel Hill	NC	12/23/2007	Will Cook	919-382-9134	cwcook@duke.edu
Aiken	SC	12/24/2007	Calvin Zippler	803-642-2264	zipplerc@bellsouth.net
Stone Mountain	NC	12/26/2007	Guy McGrane	336-973-8343	badgerboy@wilkes.net
Cape Hatteras	NC	12/27/2007	Pat Neal	252-995-4777	topatneal@aol.com
Bodie-Pea Island	NC	12/28/2007	Paul Sykes	706-769-9436	paul_sykes@usgs.gov
Spartanburg	SC	12/28/2007	Lyle Campbell	864-585-1228	lcampbell@uscupstate.edu
Balsam	NC	12/29/2007	Bob Olthoff	828-627-2546	robcar@asap-com.com
North Greenville	SC	12/29/2007	J.B. Hines	864-461-8824	jbhines3@chesnet.net
Henderson Cty.	NC	12/29/2007	Wayne Forsythe	828-697-6628	wforsythe@mchsi.com
Santee NWR	SC	12/29/2007	Robin Carter	N/A	rcarter@sc.rr.com
Pee Dee NWR	NC	12/29/2007	Judy Walker	N/A	birdwalker@mac.com
Lake Mattamuskeet	NC	12/29/2007	Allen Bryan	804-740-8953	nshrike@comcast.net
Grandfather Mt.	NC	12/30/2007	Curtis Smalling	828-265-0198	csmalling@audubon.org
Jordan Lake	NC	12/30/2007	Carol Williamson	919-383-2364	cncbrdr@yahoo.com
Greenville	NC	12/30/2007	Dr. Veronica Pantelidis	252-758-7828	pantelidisv@mail.ecu.edu
Alligator River NWR	NC	12/30/2007	Jeff Lewis	N/A	jlewis_obx@yahoo.com
Falls Lake	NC	1/2/2008	Brian Bockhahn	919-676-1027	cbockhahn4@earthlink.net
Kerr Lake	NC	1/3/2008	Brian Bockhahn	919-676-1027	cbockhahn4@earthlink.net
Pinewood (New count!)	SC	1/4/2008	Robin Carter	N/A	rcarter@sc.rr.com
Southport	NC	1/4/2008	Juanita Roushdy	910-454-8948	capefearaudubon@yahoo.org
Columbia	SC	1/5/2008	Robin Carter	N/A	rcarter@sc.rr.com
Wilmington	NC	1/5/2008	Sam Cooper	910-799-3825	dmcooper2@juno.com

The information above is believed to be correct at the time this Newsletter went to press, however changes to contact information or dates could occur. Any changes to the information printed here will be made to the online version of this article located at www.carolinabirdclub.org

Dates for the CBC Winter Meeting 2008 Announced

The 2008 winter edition of our seasonal meeting will be February 1-3 in scenic Georgetown, SC. Winter meetings on the upper South Carolina coast are always exciting, with frequently mild weather providing a wonderful opportunity to get out to some of the famous coastal birding locations such as Huntington Beach, the Santee Delta, Litchfield Beach, and others. Georgetown, our host city, provides ample lodging,

restaurants, and diversions. Non-birding guests may enjoy the plentiful shopping in Georgetown and nearby Myrtle Beach, cultural attractions dotting the coast south to the Charleston area, and wide sandy beaches on which to relax under the winter sun. Field trip descriptions and full meeting details will be printed in the next edition of the Newsletter. Pencil us in on your calendar, you'll be glad you did!

Snail Kite (continued)

Patricia Voelker of Lexington SC writes: I went to Elliott's Landing twice to see the Snail Kite and a number of other species in that area that were new for me. The Snail Kite was beautiful to watch and amusing when he shared a branch with a Yellow-crowned Night Heron after both had munched on crayfish. The most fun part of my second trip could be twofold. I was taking a sister birder to see the Snail Kite and had told her where I needed to turn. I, however, missed the turn until she called out "Rimini that way!" at which point I made a sharp (and unexpected for my passenger) turn onto the road. That got her adrenaline going. Mine was later increased when, while walking along the dike inward from the ponds, I heard a very loud snorting and bush-rustling. Apparently the largest wild hog in existence lives there but I didn't stand there long enough to prove that assertion!

Wanted!

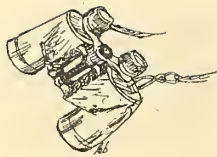
The Newsletter is looking for a few good birdwatchers (and authors!) Would you be interested in writing a column about backyard birding? How about a series of small articles on the gadgets and tools birders use in the field? Would you care to write a book review or two on tomes relevant to those interested in birding? If so, the CBC Newsletter would love to hear from you. While I would like to believe that members enjoy reading the articles I write for our bi-monthly publication, I am sure that our Newsletter would be much richer with a wider variety of input. If any of the ideas above sound interesting, or if you have an idea for a future Newsletter topic, please contact me at newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org
-Steve Shultz

New Members

The Carolina Bird Club warmly welcomes the following new members:	Helen DeCasper Greensboro, NC	Mina Lavendol Blacksburg, SC	Elizabeth & Terry Monday Greenville, NC	Tom Tribble Asheville, NC
	Phil and Jan Fowler Concord, NC	Craig Lawrence Asheville, NC	Floyd Neese Columbia, SC	Mark Vukovich Aiken, SC
M.E. and K. A. Clagett Supply, NC	Emilie Gardner Asheville, NC	Meg McCormack Mebane, NC	Karen Post Wilmington, NC	
Radhika Das Durham, NC	John Hardaway Columbia, SC	Cathy & Carl Miller Charleston, SC	Patricia Rusch Boone, NC	
		Elizabeth Mitchell Wilmington, OH		



H. Douglas Pratt



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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Georgetown, SC Feb. 1-3 2008
Whispering Pines, NC Spring 2008



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Submission deadlines are due the 1st of January, March, May,
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